

Description

METHOD FOR REDUCED N+ DIFFUSION IN STRAINED SI ON SIGE SUBSTRATE

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

- [0001] The invention relates to methods for manufacturing a semiconductor device with improved device performance and a device structure exhibiting the improved device performance, and more particularly to a method for manufacturing a SiGe-based device exhibiting reduced diffusion of an N type impurity.
- [0002] The escalating requirements for ultra large scale integration semiconductor devices require ever increasing high performance and density of transistors. With scaling-down of a device dimension reaching limits, the trend has been to seek new materials and methods that enhance device performance. One of the most preferred methods is through mobility enhancement.
- [0003] It is known that biaxial tensile strain applied to a channel region increases electron mobility in NFET devices. This

can be achieved by building an NFET device, which is composed of a set of stacked films (e.g., silicon–SiGe–silicon) on a substrate. Starting from a silicon substrate, SiGe is grown on the silicon substrate. Buffered layers have typically been used to reduce threading dislocation defect density that can affect device leakage but still achieve enough relaxation through misfit dislocation formation. The SiGe film is relaxed so that it has a lattice constant larger than that of silicon. When the silicon is then deposited on the SiGe, it conforms to the larger lattice of the relaxed SiGe and undergoes biaxial tension. The channel is fully contained within this strained silicon and the electron mobility is enhanced.

[0004] The SiGe–based substrate, however, exhibits certain drawbacks, especially when NFET devices are formed thereon. To form an NFET device, an N type impurity (e.g., As or P) is ion–implanted onto the SiGe–based substrate to form active regions (e.g., source and drain regions). Here, the excessive amount of vacancies contained in the SiGe layer undesirably increases diffusion of the implanted N type impurity. This makes it more difficult to achieve consistent roll–off device characteristics. Therefore, there is a need for effective methodology for manufacturing a

SiGe-based semiconductor device.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0005] In an aspect of the invention, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device is provided. The method includes the step of forming the source and drain extension regions in an upper surface of a SiGe-based substrate. The source and drain extension regions contain an N type impurity. Then, vacancy concentration in the source and drain extension regions is reduced in order to reduce diffusion of the N type impurity contained in the source and drain extension regions. The vacancy concentration is reduced by providing an interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element in the source and drain extension.

[0006] In another aspect of the invention, a method is provided for reducing diffusion of an N type impurity in a SiGe-based substrate. Source and drain extension regions are in an upper surface of the SiGe-based substrate. An interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element is ion-implanted into the source and drain extension regions to reduce vacancy concentration in the source and drain extension regions.

[0007] Yet another aspect of the invention is a semiconductor device having a SiGe-based substrate. A gate electrode is

formed on the SiGe-based substrate with a gate oxide therebetween. source and drain extension regions containing an N type impurity are formed in an upper surface of the SiGe substrate. A low vacancy region is formed corresponding to the source and drain extension regions and containing an interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0008] The foregoing and other advantages will be better understood from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention with reference to the drawings, in which:

[0009] Figures 1 to 7 depict sequential phases of the method according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0010] The invention provides a method that significantly reduces undesirable diffusion of the N type impurity in a SiGe-based substrate, thereby improving roll-off characteristics of devices. In an embodiment, the diffusion of N type impurity is reduced by reducing vacancies in source and drain extension regions. The vacancies are reduced by providing an interstitial element (e.g., Si or O) or a va-

cancy-trapping element (e.g., F, N, Xe, Ar, He, Kr or a noble gas element) to the source and drain extension regions.

[0011] Typically, the interstitial element creates an additional interstitial per every ion provided thereto, and the additional interstitials react with and annihilate excessive vacancies in the SiGe-based substrate. The vacancy-trapping element trap vacancies and form vacancy-based clusters. Since vacancies are either annihilated or trapped by the interstitial element or the vacancy-trapping element, vacancy concentration is reduced, thereby reducing diffusion of the N type impurity in the source and drain regions.

[0012] Figure 1 shows a SiGe-base substrate comprising a SiGe layer 12 formed on a silicon substrate 10. In an embodiment, the SiGe layer 12 is formed by multiple growing steps forming buffer layers on the silicon substrate 10 for a typical total thickness of approximately 200 Å to 20000 Å. The SiGe layer 12 is then relaxed. A Si cap layer 14 is formed on the SiGe layer 12 by growing on the SiGe layer 12 at a thickness of approximately 30 Å to 400 Å. The Si cap layer 14 is then strained biaxially in tension to match the underlying relaxed SiGe lattice. A gate oxide layer 16

is formed on the Si cap layer 14. The SiGe-based substrate is divided into an NMOS region and a PMOS region, in which NMOS devices and PMOS devices are formed, respectively.

[0013] Figure 2 shows a gate electrode 18 formed on the gate oxide layer 16. Since the invention is directed to N type devices, a mask 22 is formed selectively on the PMOS region to protect the PMOS devices therein from subsequent processing steps. Figure 2 further shows optional sidewalls 20 formed on the side surfaces of the gate electrode 18 for protecting the gate electrode 18 from subsequent ion-implantation steps.

[0014] Figure 3 shows only the NMOS region of Figure 2, in which the N type impurity (e.g., As or P) is ion-implanted, as shown by arrows "A", into the upper surface of the Si cap layer 14 to form source and drain extension regions 24 in the surface portions of the SiGe-based substrate. As shown therein, the ion-implantation is performed in a self-aligned manner by using the gate electrode 18 as a mask, at an implantation concentration of approximately 1×10^{14} atoms/cm² to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm² and at an implantation energy of approximately 0.3 KeV to 50 KeV. The concentration peak of the implanted N type impurity

is formed at a depth of approximately 10 Å to 1000 Å from an upper surface of the Si cap layer.

[0015] As described above, diffusion of the N type impurity (e.g., As or P) is significantly and undesirably enhanced in the SiGe-based substrate because the vacancy-based mechanism is more pronounced therein. To solve this problem, as shown in Figure 4, an interstitial element (e.g., Si or O) or a vacancy-trapping element (e.g., F, N, Xe, Ar, He, Kr or other noble gas elements) is ion-implanted onto the source and drain extension regions 24, as shown by arrows "B", to form low-vacancy regions 26 that substantially overlap the source and drain extension regions 24.

[0016] Upon implantation, damage is caused in such a way that, upon annealing of the damage, the interstitials annihilate the excessive vacancies, thereby reducing the vacancy concentration in the extension regions 24. Similarly, the implanted vacancy-trapping element traps the excessive vacancies and form vacancy-based clusters, and hence reduces the vacancy concentration in the source and drain extension regions 24. Annealing at this stage is optional.

[0017] In an embodiment, the interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element is ion-implanted at an implantation concentration of approximately 1×10^{14} atoms/cm² to 1

$\times 10^{16}$ atoms/cm² and at an implantation energy of approximately 0.3 KeV to 100 KeV. The concentration peak of the implanted interstitial element or the vacancy-trapping element is formed at a depth of approximately 5 Å to 2000 Å from an upper surface of the Si cap layer. Typically the implant profile of the interstitial element or vacancy-trapping element should fully contain the N type impurity profile. The concentration peak of the implanted interstitial element or vacancy-trapping element can be near the N type impurity peak so as to maximize the diffusion retardation.

[0018] It is not necessary to form the source and drain extension regions 24 prior to ion-implanting the interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element. The low-vacancy region 26 may be formed prior to forming the source and drain extension regions 24. Annealing can then be performed to activate the implanted impurity and elements at the same time so that the diffusion through the vacancy-mediated mechanism is controlled. Annealing can also be performed later in the processing steps (e.g., after source and drain formation) or after completion of the fabrication process.

[0019] After forming sidewall spacers 28, as shown in Figure 5,

the N type impurity is ion-implanted into the SiGe-based substrate, as shown by arrows "C", to form source and drain regions 30, as shown in Figure 6. The source and drain regions 30 overlap the source and drain extension regions 24, respectively. The N type impurity is ion-implanted in the self-aligned manner by using the gate electrode 18 and the sidewall spacers 28 as a mask. In an embodiment, the source and drain regions 30 are formed by ion-implanting the N type impurity at an implantation concentration of approximately 1×10^{14} atoms/cm² to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm² and at an implantation energy of approximately 0.3 KeV to 50 KeV.

[0020] Figure 7 shows an optional step of ion-implanting the interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element (e.g., F, N, Xe, Ar, He, Kr or a noble gas element), as shown by arrows "D", to form low-vacancy regions 32 of the SiGe-based substrate corresponding to the source and drain regions 30 for reducing the vacancy concentration in the SiGe-based substrate. In an embodiment, the low-vacancy regions 32 are formed by ion-implanting the interstitial element or vacancy-trapping element at an implantation concentration of approximately 1×10^{14} atoms/cm² to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm² and at an implantation energy of ap-

proximately 0.3 KeV to 100 KeV. This step, however, might not be necessary if the vacancy concentration in the SiGe-based substrate has been sufficiently reduced by the previous ion-implantation step shown in Figure 4. Again, the peaks of the N type implants and interstitial elements or vacancy-trapping element in regions 30 and 32 can be aligned on the top of each other or shifted depending upon the diffusion control.

[0021] Annealing is performed to activate the implanted impurity and cure the implantation damage arising from implanting the interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element and source and drain implants. In an embodiment, the annealing is performed at a temperature of approximately 700 °C to 1200 ° C for approximately 1 second to 3 minutes. This covers the full range of possible anneals including spike, rapid thermal, and furnace anneals.

[0022] As explained above, the invention provides a method that significantly reduces undesirable diffusion of the N type impurity in a SiGe-based substrate. The diffusion of N type impurity is reduced by reducing vacancies in source and drain extension regions. The vacancies are reduced by providing an interstitial element or a vacancy-trapping element to the source and drain extension regions. The

implanted interstitial element creates additional interstitials which react with and annihilate excessive vacancies in the SiGe-based substrate. The implanted vacancy-trapping element traps vacancies and forms vacancy-based clusters. Since vacancies are either annihilated or trapped by the interstitial element or the vacancy-trapping element, vacancy concentration is reduced and diffusion of the N type impurity is reduced in the source and drain regions, thereby improving roll-off characteristics of devices.

[0023] While the invention has been described in terms of embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.